THE STANDARDS FORUM

December 2001
Volume 9, Issue 3

Your publication for news about the DOE Technical Standards Program

Inside this issue:

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Brookhaven National Laboratory Achieves ISO 14001 Registration for the Entire Site

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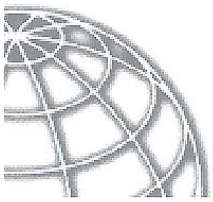
The U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) has achieved ISO 14001 registration for the entire site, becoming the first national laboratory to obtain third-party registration to this globally recognized environmental standard.

"In a time of ever-increasing appreciation of the fragility of our environment, Brookhaven Lab has set a gold standard of operations for all large institutions," said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. "If we want to continue producing the great science that is the hallmark of the national laboratory system, we must all do our part to ensure we are operating at the highest level of environmental awareness."

The International Organization for Standardization's ISO 14001 is a globally recognized standard that defines the structure of an organization's environmental management system for purposes of improving its environmental performance. ISO 14001 requires an organization to identify potential environmental impacts and establish controls needed to minimize impacts, to monitor and communicate environmental per-

(Continued on page 2)



DOE Technical Standards Program Manager Participates in NIST Seminar on Implementation of NTTAA

The Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Standards Program (TSP) Manager, Rick Serbu, participated in a Seminar on Implementation of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) that included a panel discussion of the implementation strategies of select government agencies. The seminar was hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in conjunction with events to celebrate World Standards Week 2001 and was held in conjunction with American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-sponsored events on Thursday, October 11, 2001, in Washington, D.C.

In addition to Mr. Serbu representing DOE, the panel discussion featured presentations from the Department of Defense (DoD), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Dr. Belinda Collins, until recently NIST Director of the Office of Standards and currently the Associate Director of Technology, served as moderator for the panel discussion.

Dr. Collins provided an overview of the NTTAA and reporting requirements. She explained that the NTTAA was signed into law on March 7, 1996, and promotes greater reliance on voluntary standards by agencies of the Federal, state, and local govern-

(Continued on page 3)

Standing by the new sign at Brookhaven's main gate are leaders of the BNL push for ISO 14001 registration, including (from left) Environmental Management System (EMS) Coordinator Barbara Cox, EMS Project Manager Susan Briggs, Lab Deputy Director for Operations Thomas Sheridan, and Environmental Services Division Manager Lori Cunniff.

(Continued from page 1)

formance, and to establish a formal process for continually improving the system. In 1999, Brookhaven's Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider project became the first Department of Energy national laboratory and Long Island-based organization to obtain third-party registration to the ISO standard.

In 2000, eight additional Brookhaven facilities were registered to the standard. In order to achieve registration, the Laboratory underwent an independent audit of its environmental management system to verify that the system conformed to all ISO requirements and that it was effectively implemented. The certification also requires Brookhaven to undergo annual audits by an accredited auditing firm to assure that the system is maintained.

In its recommendation for certification, NSF International Strategic Registrations, Ltd., an independent third-party environmental review firm from Ann Arbor, Michigan, singled out 14 aspects of Brookhaven's program as being particularly noteworthy. These included Brookhaven's comprehensive use of computer technology to help provide environmental guidance, the thoroughness of the Laboratory's experimental project reviews, and its systems for identifying environmental protection priorities and tracking issues.

NSF reviewers also noted that Brookhaven's environmental management system was the most thoroughly and systematically implemented program they had encountered to date, and that this was particularly noteworthy for such a unique and complex organization. Brookhaven's environmental management system recently received a DOE Pollution Prevention Award for "Excellence in Management," the first organization ever to receive this award.

"People across the DOE complex and at other research institutions are looking at Brookhaven's environmental management system as a model program," said Laboratory Director John Marburger. "This registration demonstrates the progress we have made at Brookhaven, and an understanding that our ability to produce great science is closely tied to our dedication to environmental stewardship."

> **"In a time of ever-increasing appreciation of the fragility of our environment, Brookhaven Lab has set a gold standard of operations for all large institutions"**
>
> **—Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham**

To gain registration to the standard, an organization must comply with a set of 17 ISO 14001 requirements. These include:

- Development of an environmental policy with a commitment to compliance, pollution prevention, and continual improvement.
- Identification of environmental aspects and impacts of an operation and any legal requirements, setting goals and objectives consistent with policy and implementing programs to achieve the goals.
- Establishment of a support structure to administer environmental training, communication, documentation, operational control, and emergency preparedness.
- Implementation of checking and corrective actions that include monitoring and auditing functions, and senior management review of overall system effectiveness.
- Completion of annual audits by independent auditors to ensure continued conformance to requirements and to maintain registration.

(Continued from page 1)

ments. The bill directs these agencies to use voluntary consensus standards developed by private sector standards organizations whenever possible; encourages participation in voluntary consensus standards bodies when compatible with the agency's mission; and instructs NIST to coordinate Federal standards and conformity assessment activities with those of the private sector. The Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119 (OMB A-119) provides guidance regarding the implementation of the NTTAA and recommends specific policies to Federal agencies to ensure their compliance with the NTTAA.

Mr. Serbu characterized DOE's participation in voluntary consensus standardization: "During the past year, the DOE has had 663 personnel participate in 1,353 standards activities, and we used 1,025 voluntary consensus standards in the conduct of our missions and functions. They are primarily used to support our rules, orders, manuals and guides as well as to develop procedures and to establish acceptable criteria for the design, operation, maintenance and deactivation of our extensive and diverse facilities."

The TSP provides the procedures and infrastructure for implementing the requirements of the NTTAA, OMB A-119, and DOE internal policy and requirements related to technical standards. Its purpose is to promote the preferential use of voluntary consensus standards as well as the infrastructure for developing DOE internal standards when necessary.

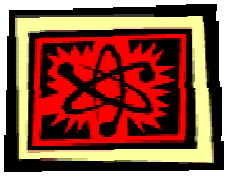
Gregory Saunders, director of the DoD's Defense Standardization Program Office, described the DoD's policy to review a Military document or specification (MilSpec) every five years to encourage its replacement by a voluntary consensus standard. Since 1989, DoD has doubled the number of voluntary standards that it uses and, this year, has posted an all-time high of 8,981 standards. Mr. Saunders reported that at the present time 870 DoD personnel participate in voluntary consensus standards activities.

The representative from the NRC, Frank C. Cherny, technical assistant to the Standards Executive, described the importance that his agency places on maintaining open lines of communication with standards developing organizations (SDOs). The NRC has initiated a program wherein "standards champions" are placed within its offices to facilitate interaction with SDOs and to focus on internal standards activities. The NRC has also instituted Management Directive 6.5, "NRC Participation in the Development and Use of Consensus Standards," which provides direction for the implementation of OMB A-119 and ensures consistent agency focus on the development and use of voluntary consensus standards.

Richard H. Weinstein, manager of Engineering Standards at NASA, outlined the current activities within the space agency's Technical Standards Program. Mr. Weinstein reported that NASA has adopted over 1,000 voluntary consensus standards as NASA Preferred Standards. The agency has also initiated a program to transfer suitable NASA standards to voluntary consensus standards as well as to replace its standards with voluntary consensus standards.

You can view the NTTAA Seminar Proceedings on ANSI's Web site at **http://www.ansi.org/rooms/room_5/public/nttaa_implementation.htm**.

DOE Announces New Policy of Reliance on Private Sector Accreditation Bodies for Nuclear Weapons Complex



The National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) recently announced that the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Albuquerque Operations Office and Sandia Primary Standards Laboratory (PSL) have approved the use of commercial calibration laboratories accredited by NACLA-recognized accreditation bodies (ABs) in support of the DOE's Nuclear Weapons Complex.

DOE is interested in using the NACLA accreditation system as a means to reduce costs. According to Dick Pettit, PSL's manager of the Primary Electrical Standards Department 2542 and a NACLA member, "This move will change the way we do business." We will "no longer have to send teams to each laboratory that calibrates equipment in support of DOE programs in order to make sure they meet our calibration requirements."

NACLA relies on two guidance documents that are essential in valid laboratory accreditation throughout the world: the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17025, which is the standard by which testing and calibration laboratories are measured, and the ISO/IEC Guide 58, which is the guide used to assess the competence of laboratory accreditation bodies. ABs that apply to NACLA for recognition are required to undergo an on-site assessment of the applicant's operations to determine whether the organization is in full compliance with these ISO/IEC standards.

To read more about NACLA and view a list of NACLA-recognized ABs, visit their Web site at **http://www.nacla.net/**.

TSP/ASME Meetings Initiated to Coordinate Standards Activities of Mutual Interest

The DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP) staff and representatives of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) have initiated a series of routine meetings to discuss coordination of standards activities. We will review DOE Technical Standards to identify potential candidates for conversion to ASME standards and encourage DOE staff to work with their ASME counterparts to develop standards needed to support DOE missions and functions. We hope that the DOE Topical Committee (TC) system will serve as DOE's primary interface with ASME and other standards development organizations (SDOs). ASME also sponsors counterpart working groups in many areas. We anticipate that standards projects in areas such as quality assurance and software quality assurance could be conducted in coordination with ASME (and other Federal agencies). If you are interested in forming a DOE TC to work with ASME on a standard needed by DOE, are interested in joining an existing TC to foster such an effort, or have a suggestion for a technical standards project that we could work with any SDO, contact me (**Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**) or Norm Schwartz (**Norm.Schwartz@eh.doe.gov**) for information. You can also visit our TSP Web site and scan our list of existing DOE TCs (and contacts for them) at **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**. DOE TCs are listed under "Program Overview and Guidance," and links to their various home pages are provided. A link to the ASME home page is provided under "Standards Organizations." Our next meeting with ASME is planned for December 13, 2001.

— Rick Serbu

Topical Committee Developments

A call went out in the September 2000 issue of *The Standards Forum* that the Technical Standards Program (TSP) was looking for groups of nuclear safety subject matter experts (SMEs) to form topical committees (TCs) that are counterparts to American Nuclear Society (ANS) subcommittees. No positive responses have been forthcoming from DOE's nuclear safety experts.

On October 31, 2001, the chairman of the ANS Nuclear Facilities Standards Committee (NFSC), Donald J. Spellman, indicated his intention to "get DOE better hooked" to the standards development organizations (SDOs) so as to better respond to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119 (OMB A-119) and to "assist both the SDOs and DOE" in the development of relevant and useful technical standards for the nuclear industry. Don extended an invitation for a TSP representative to attend the next ANS meeting in June 2002 in Hollywood, Florida or the November 2002 meeting in Washington, D.C. He suggested a TSP-hosted workshop outside the NFSC meeting with a presentation to the NFSC Subcommittee Chairman "to explore ways to closer link the ANS NFSC to the DOE TSP TCs." This collaboration would have a significantly greater chance of success if one or more TSP nuclear safety related TCs were either chartered or in the formative stages.

Are you a member of a working group or technical group especially dealing with aspects of nuclear safety that would like to be recognized across the DOE complex? Would you like the opportunity to share ideas with like-minded scientists and engineers in the Department in a time of scarce resources and be more involved in standards work? If you are part of such a group of SMEs that would like to affiliate with the TSP as a topical committee, contact M. Norman Schwartz (301-903-2996, **Norm.Schwartz@eh.doe.gov**) or Richard Serbu (301-903-2856, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**).

THE STANDARDS FORUM

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Distribution: *The Standards Forum* is an electronic newsletter available from the TSP Web Site (**http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**). To update your mailing and e-mail addresses, please contact Amy Bush, ORNL, 865-576-2395, Fax 865-574-8481 **bushar@ornl.gov**.

Comments: If you have any questions or comments please contact Rick Serbu, EH-53, 301-903-2856, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**. If you have any questions or comments on DOE Technical Standards projects, please call Don Williams, ORNL, 865-574-8710, **williamsdljr@ornl.gov**.

Publication: ORNL and DOE's ES&H Technical Information Services posts *The Standards Forum* quarterly for the DOE Technical Standards Program at **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/ techstds/**.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Corporate-Level Subscription Service for Accessing Commercial Standards Proposed

By James J. McAndrews, ESWOG Committee Member

The Engineering Standards Working Group (ESWOG) is proposing that DOE-HQ establish a DOE corporate-level subscription service for accessing commercial standards. ESWOG is a recently established group that seeks to provide efficiency, value, and support throughout the DOE complex by sharing contractor engineering standards program information. A corporate-level subscription service for accessing commercial standards would allow DOE sites to share the benefits of a corporate contract administered and funded by DOE-HQ.

To establish a baseline for the study, ESWOG members were asked to survey their site and provide a list of the commercial standards subscribed to by their site and the approximate cost per year incurred for accessing these standards. These costs were compared to the estimated cost for a DOE corporate-level subscription service. Table A lists the sites that participated in the survey. A comprehensive list of commercial standards incorporating most of the commercial standards subscribed to by the individual sites is shown in Table B.

Table A. DOE Sites Surveyed

Bechtel Nevada
Brookhaven National Laboratory
DOE-Headquarters
Hanford Site/Richland Office (includes Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Fluor Hanford, Fluor Federal Services, and Dyncorp Tri Cities)
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Oak Ridge (includes Y-12 National Security Complex, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Bechtel Jacobs Company)
Sandia National Laboratories
Savannah River Site
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

A commercial vendor service was asked to provide a cost estimate for a DOE corporate-level subscription service based on the list of standards identified in Table B. One service was selected because ESWOG members felt it would provide the most comprehensive subscription service for the DOE complex. The vendor's DOE corporate subscription would provide real time electronic World Wide Web access to commercial standards to every user in the DOE complex from each individual user's personal computer. The preliminary cost estimate from the service was very competitive, totaling less than the sum of individual site subscriptions.

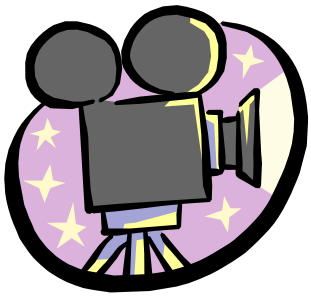
Based on the results of the study, ESWOG has determined that the advantages of a DOE corporate-level subscription service include the following:

- Supports Public Law 104-113, *The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995,* which serves to continue the policy changes initiated under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119 (OMB A-119), *Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Standards*, that are transitioning the Executive branch of the Federal Government from a developer of internal standards to a customer of external standards,
- Reduces the overall cost each year to DOE for negotiating individual site contracts,
- Provides a much broader selection of commercial standards to the entire DOE complex,
- Makes commercial standards available to every user in the DOE complex from their own personal computer, and
- Provides lower estimated costs when compared with current individual site subscription services.

The ESWOG proposal to establish a DOE corporate-level contract has been presented to the ESWOG DOE representative and the DOE Technical Standards Program Manager.

Table B. National Codes and Standards

- Acoustical Society of America
- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute
- American Association of State Highway & Transportation
- American Bearing Manufactures Association
- American Concrete Institute
- American Gas Association
- American Gear Manufacturers Association
- American National Standards Institute
- American Nuclear Society
- American Petroleum Institute
- American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers
- American Society for Testing and Materials
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- American Society for Quality
- American Welding Society
- American Water Works Association
- ASME Boiler Pressure Codes
- Electronic Industries Alliance
- Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
- Institute for Interconnecting & Packaging Electronic Circuits
- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
- Instrument Society of America
- Manufactures Standardization Society of Valves & Fittings
- National Association of Corrosion Engineers
- National Electrical Manufacturer's Association
- National Fire Code (Includes NFPA, NEC & LSC)
- National Fluid Power Association
- National Sanitation Foundation
- Pipe Fabrication Institute
- Plastic Pipe Institute
- Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning
- Society of Automotive Engineers
- Society for Protective Coatings
- Underwriters Laboratories (Without Directories)



Technical Standards Program Spotlight

Margaret Legel, Technical Standards Manager for New Brunswick Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois

Margaret Legel is the Quality Assurance (QA) Officer and Training Coordinator for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) New Brunswick Laboratory (NBL) in Argonne, Illinois. As part of her responsibilities, Margaret also serves as the Technical Standards Manager (TSM) for NBL. Her current assignments follow logically after 21 years at NBL as a chemist pursuing high-quality mass spectrometric measurements, documenting laboratory analysts' training, formalizing an instrument calibration program, and documenting laboratory procedures - all important elements of laboratory quality assurance.

NBL is a small government-owned and government-operated nuclear safeguards laboratory, which serves as the U.S. Government's certifying authority for nuclear certified reference materials (CRMs). Nuclear chemistry and mass spectrometry are the Laboratory's strengths, as personnel work to provide new and replacement CRMs used in DOE, as well as in international nuclear facilities.

The Need for Continued Maintenance of Technical Qualifications Program Functional Standards

Margaret is new to the Technical Standards Program (TSP), becoming a TSM in 2000. She is most keenly interested in reviving the Technical Qualifications Program (TQP) under the umbrella of the TSP. When the TQP was new, affected NBL staff members qualified to the General Technical Base Qualification Standard and pursued qualification in various functional areas. The functional standards became quickly outdated as DOE directives were updated. Margaret believes that the TSP is a logical place for their continued maintenance.

"As Training Coordinator for NBL, I see the standardization of qualification competencies as a bonus to a small lab like us. Staff members are experienced multitaskers, and the more tools provided to them, such as the TQP functional standards, the more productive they can be towards expanding their skills," says Margaret.

Margaret Legel, TSM for NBL

The Value of Topical Committees to the Development of Technical Standards

Margaret participates in two TSP Topical Committees (TCs), Metrology and Laboratory Accreditation. She speaks highly of the caliber of the people she has met at these annual TC meetings. "It has been a great benefit to talk with members of accredited primary standards laboratories in physical metrology measurements. The interactions have helped in moving forward NBL's goal of seeking laboratory accreditation to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 for uranium and plutonium chemical and mass spectrometric measurements and in improving overall Laboratory quality systems." Working closely with other NBL staff members who serve on several American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and ISO committees involved in the development of voluntary consensus standards allows Margaret to keep informed about the activities and successes of these standards.

> "As Training Coordinator for NBL, I see the standardization of qualification competencies as a bonus to a small lab like us."
>
> — Margaret Legel

A Personal Note

Margaret enjoys her flower gardens (especially the reliable perennials), but she welcomes the cold Chicago winters for a needed break in their never-ending maintenance. When asked about wintertime activities, she alludes to that scrapbook she's been meaning to build. Hoping to instill a love for science in a future generation, Margaret and several colleagues have assisted grade-school students in their science projects. She has traveled to Russia, including parts of Siberia, as well as to most of the DOE labs and facilities supporting various DOE nuclear safeguards and nonproliferation projects. Margaret says that her travel experiences have been very rewarding, and she has found people with common interests in improving quality at every location, no matter what their native language.

Standards Actions

December 2001

Standards Actions

DOE Technical Standards Program Document Status

11-30-2001

Activity Summary

In Conversion—4

In Preparation—38

Out for Comment—17

Published this Month—1

Inside this issue:

DOE Technical Standards Recently Sent for Coordination

The appropriate Technical Standards Managers (TSMs) will request specific reviewers to comment on these drafts. The full text of the documents is available on the TSP Web Site. If you wish to comment on these documents, please notify your TSM.

The following draft DOE Technical Standards were recently distributed for coordination.

- *Facility Representative Functional Area Qualification Standard*, Project Number TRNG-0019, Norm Schwartz, U.S. Department of Energy, EH-53, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290; 301-903-2996, Fax 301-903-6172, **Norm.Schwartz@eh.doe.gov**. Comments are due December 31, 2001.
- *Radiological Training for Tritium Facilities*, Project Number TRNG-0020, Peter O'Connell, U.S. Department of Energy, EH-52, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290; 301-903-5641, 301-903-7773, **Peter.O'Connell@eh.doe.gov**. Comments are due December 28, 2001.

DOE Technical Standards Proposed for Reaffirmation

The full text of the documents is available on the TSP Web Site. If you wish to comment on these documents, please notify your TSM.

The following DOE Technical Standards were recently distributed for reaffirmation.

- DOE-HDBK-1001-96, *Guide to Good Practices for Training and Qualification of Instructors* (revision to DOE-NE-STD-1001-91)
- DOE-HDBK-1002-96, *Guide to Good Practices for Training and Qualification of Chemical Operators* (revision to DOE-NE-STD-1002-91)
- DOE-HDBK-1003-96, *Guide to Good Practices for Training and Qualification of Maintenance Personnel* (revision of DOE-NE-STD-1003-91)
- DOE-HDBK-1099-96, *Establishing Nuclear Facility Drill Programs*
- DOE-HDBK-1103-96, *Table-Top Needs Analysis*

Published DOE Technical Standard

The following DOE Technical Standard was recently printed and posted on the TSP Web Site:

- DOE-STD-1146-2001, *General Technical Base Qualification Standard*

DOE employees and DOE contractors may obtain copies from the ES&H Technical Information Services, U.S. Department of Energy; 1-800-473-4375, Fax 301-903-9823.

Subcontractors and the general public may obtain copies from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161; 703-605-6000, Fax 703-605-6900.

Copies of DOE Technical Standards (i.e., DOE Standards, Specifications, Handbooks, and Technical Standards Lists) are also available on the TSP Web Site.

Non-Government Standards

American National Standards Institute

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) publishes coordination activities of non-Government standards (NGS) biweekly in *ANSI Standards Action.* Recent electronic copies (no hardcopies are produced) are available on the ANSI Web site at **http://web.ansi.org/rooms/room_14/**. Electronic back copies are available to ANSI members only. For information on site membership, ask your local ANSI contact. For information on individual or group ANSI membership, contact Susan Bose at 212-642-4948 or **sbose@ansi.org**.

Hardcopy versions of published non-Government standards listed in this section may be obtained from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way East, Englewood, Colorado, 80112, 800-854-7179, Fax 303-397-2740, **global@ihs.com**, **http://global.ihs.com**. Electronic delivery of selected documents is available through ANSI at **http://webstore.ansi.org**. Copies of the listed draft standards and the procedure for commenting on them may be obtained by contacting the standards developing organization.

The following listings are extracted from *ANSI Standards Action* and are representative of NGS development activities that may be relevant to DOE operations. Refer to *ANSI Standards Action* for a more extensive listing of changes and new publications, standards developing organizations, and additional information about submitting comments. Additional information on ANSI activities and available non-Government standards can be found on the ANSI Web site, **http://www.ansi.org**, or through the National Standards System Network, **http://www.nssn.org**.

The following American National Standards are currently in coordination (comment due dates follow each entry)**:**

- API 682, *Shaft Sealing Systems for Centrifugal and Rotary Pumps* (new standard) – January 29, 2002.
- ASTM D1067, *Test Methods for Acidity or Alkalinity of Water* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D1067-96) – December 31, 2001.
- ASTM D3865, *Test Method for Plutonium in Water* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D3865-97) – December 31, 2001.
- ASTM D3972, *Test Method for Isotopic Uranium in Water by Radiochemistry* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D3972-97) – December 31, 2001.
- ASTM D5174, *Test Method for Trace Uranium in Water by Pulsed-Laser Phosphorimetry* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D5174-01) – December 31, 2001.
- ASTM E162, Test Method for Surface Flammability of Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source (revision of ANSI/ASTM E162-98) – December 31, 2001.
- ASTM E1419, *Test Method for Examination of Seamless, Gas-Filled, Pressure Vessels Using Acoustic Emission* (revision of ANSI/ASTM E1419-00) – January 14, 2002.
- IEEE C62.34-1996, *Performance of Low-Voltage Surge Protective Devices* (Secondary Arresters) – (reaffirmation of ANSI/IEEE C62.34-1996) – January 15, 2002.
- IEEE 577-1976 (R1993), *Reliability Analysis in the Design and Operation of Safety Systems for Nuclear Power Generating Stations, Requirements* (reaffirmation of ANSI/IEEE 577-1976 (R1993)) – January 15, 2002.
- IEEE 644-1994, *Procedures for Measurement of Power Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields from AC Power Lines* (reaffirmation of ANSI/IEEE 644-1994) – January 15, 2002.
- IEEE 1215, *Guide for the Application of Separable Insulated Connectors* (new standard) – January 15, 2002.
- ISA RP12.06.01, *Wiring Practices for Hazardous (Classified) Locations Instrumentation – Part I: Intrinsic Safety* (reaffirmation and redesignation of ANSI/ISA RP12.6-1995) – December 31, 2001.
- NSF 42 (i30), *Drinking Water Treatment Units – Aesthetic Effects* (Issue 30) (revision of ANSI/NSF 42-2001) – December 31, 2001.
- NSF 49 (i2r4), *Class II (Laminar Flow) Biohazard Cabinetry* (new standard) – January 14, 2002.
- NSF 53 (i14r3), *Drinking Water Treatment Units - Health Effects* (revision of ANSI/NSF 53-2000) – January 14, 2002.
- NSF 61 (i32r1), *Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects* (revision of ANSI/NSF 61-2000) – December 31, 2001.
- UL 817, *Cord Sets and Power Supply Cords* (revision of ANSI/UL 817) – December 31, 2001.

(Continued on page 9)

The following American National Standards have been approved for publication (Publication is to take place within six months following the date shown. Publication status and ordering information may be obtained from ANSI's Customer Service at 212-642-4900.)**:**

- ANSI N13.36-2001, *Ionizing Radiation Safety Training for Workers* (new standard) – October 9, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM A299/A299M-01, *Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Carbon Steel, Manganese-Silicon* (revision of ANSI/ASTM A299/A299-97E01) – September 10, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM A515/A515M-01, *Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Carbon Steel, for Intermediate- and Higher-Temperature Service* (revision of ANSI/ASTM A515/A515M-92 (R1997)) – September 10, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM A516/A516M-01, *Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Carbon Steel, for Moderate- and Lower-Temperature Service* (revision of ANSI/ASTM A516/A516M-90 (R01)) – September 10, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM E176-01, *Terminology of Fire Standards* (revision of ANSI/ASTM E176-99) – November 20, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM E772-93 (R01), *Terminology Relating to Solar Energy Conversion* (reaffirmation of ANSI/ASTM E772-93) – October 9, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM E861-94 (R01), *Practice for Evaluating Thermal Insulation Materials for Use in Solar Collectors* (reaffirmation of ANSI/ASTM E861-94) – October 9, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM E1240-96, *Test Method for Performance Testing of Wind Energy Conversion Systems* (withdrawal of ANSI/ASTM E1240-96) – October 9, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM E1539-01, *Guide for the Use of Radiation-Sensitive Indicators* (revision of ANSI/ASTM E1539-93) – October 9, 2001.
- ANSI/ASTM E1956-01, *Practice for Use of Thermoluminescence-Dosimetry (TLD) Systems for Radiation Processing* (new standard) – October 9, 2001.
- ANSI/IEEE 505-1977 (R2001), *Nomenclature for Generating Station Electric Power Systems* (reaffirmation of ANSI/IEEE 505-1977 (R1996)) – October 25, 2001.
- ANSI/NECA 405-2001, *Recommended Practice for Installing and Commissioning Interconnected Generation Systems* (new standard) – October 25, 2001.
- ANSI/UL 2279-2001, *Standard for Safety for Electrical Equipment for Use in Class I, Zone 0, 1, and 2 Hazardous (Classified) Locations* (revision of ANSI/UL 2279-1997) – October 29, 2001.

The following international standards are currently in coordination (comment due dates follow each entry)**:**

- IEC 61482-1 Ed.1, *Live working – Flame-resistant materials for clothing for thermal protection of workers – Thermal hazards of an electric arc – Part 1: Test methods* , January 11, 2002.
- ISO/DIS 7476, *Nuclear fuel technology – Determination of uranium in uranyl nitrate solutions of nuclear grade quality – Gravimetric method* – February 7, 2002.
- ISO/DIS 17846, *Welding and allied processes – Health and safety – Wordless precautionary labels for equipment and consumables used in arc welding and cutting* – February 7, 2002.
- prEN 54-13, *Fire detection and fire alarm systems – Part 13: System requirements and compatibility assessment* – January 18, 2002.
- prEN 403 REVIEW, *Respiratory protective devices for self-rescue – Filtering devices with hood for self-rescue from fire – Requirements, testing, marking* – March 25, 2002.
- prEN 764-1, *Pressure equipment – Terminology – Part 1: Pressure, temperature, volume, nominal size* – March 18, 2002.

The following newly published international standards are available:

- ISO 6529:2001, *Protective clothing – Protection against chemicals – Determination of resistance of protective clothing materials to permeation by liquids and gases.*
- ISO 15538:2001, *Protective clothing for firefighters – Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for protective clothing with a reflective outer surface.*

American National Standards Projects Initiated

The following is a list of proposed new American National Standards or revisions to existing American National Standards submitted to ANSI by accredited standards developers. DOE employees or contractors interested in participating in these activities should contact the appropriate standards developing organization. DOE-TSL-4 lists the DOE representatives on NGS committees. If no DOE representative is listed, contact the TSPO for information on participating in NGS activities.

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American Nuclear Society
Office: 555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526-5592
Fax: (708) 352-6464
Contact: Suriya Ahmad, **sahmad@ans.org**

- ANS 8.26, *Criticality Safety Engineer Training and Qualification Program* (new standard).
- ANS 16.1, *Measurement of the Leachability of Solidified Low-Level Radioactive Wastes by a Short-Term Test Procedure* (new standard).

American Society for Testing and Materials
Office: 100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA 19428
Fax: 610-832-9666
Contact: Bruce Noe, **bnoe@astm.org**

- ASTM Z8367Z, *Test Method for the Detection and Enumeration of E.coli in Water and Wastewater (Membrane Filtration:B-Glucuronidase Method)* (new standard).

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
Office: 333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60004
Fax: 847-509-6217
Contact: Mitchell Gold, **Mitchell.Gold@us.ul.com**

- UL 1561, *Standard for Safety for Dry-Type General Purpose and Power Transformers* (new standard).

Office: 1655 Scott Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Fax: 408-556-6153
Contact: Linda Phinney,
Linda.L.Phinney@us.ul.com

- UL 2167, *Standard for Safety for Water Mist Nozzles for Fire-Protection Service* (new standard).

American Society for Testing and Materials

Standards activities of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) are published monthly in ASTM *Standardization News.* Orders for subscriptions or single copies of ASTM *Standardization News* may be submitted to ASTM, Subscription Dept.-SN, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428-2959. For information regarding ASTM membership, contact the Membership Services Department at 610-832-9691 (Fax 610-832-9667). ASTM publications may be ordered from the ASTM Customer Services Department at 610-832-9585 (Fax 610-832-9555). Comments on listed draft standards may be submitted by contacting the ASTM Standards Coordination Department at the above address. Questions may be addressed to the Technical Committee Operations Division at 610-832-9672 (Fax 610-832-9666). Additional information on ASTM activities is available on the ASTM Web site (**http://www.astm.org**). The following listings are extracted from ASTM *Standardization News* and are representative of NGS development activities that may be relevant to DOE operations.

The following ASTM standards are currently in coordination (the due date for all items is December 10, 2001):

- D 2752-88(1997), *Test Methods for Air Permeability of Asbestos Fibers.*
- D 2947-88(1997), *Test Method for Screen Analysis of Asbestos Fibers.*
- D 2985-92(1997), *Test Method for Color of Asbestos.*
- D 2987-88(1997), *Test Method for Moisture Content of Asbestos Fiber.*
- E 7-00, *Terminology Relating to Metallography.*
- E 1182-93(1998), *Test Method for Measurement of Surface Layer Thickness by Radial Sectioning.*
- E 162-98, *Test Method for Surface Flammability of Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source.*
- E 543-99, *Practice for Agencies Performing Nondestructive Testing.*
- E 1316-00a, *Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations.*
- E 1419-00a, T*est Method for Examination of Seamless, Gas-Filled Pressure Vessels Using Acoustic Emission.*
- E 1318-00, *Specification for Highway Weigh-in-Motion WIM Systems with User Requirements and Test Methods.*
- New Standard, *Guide for Planar Flaw Height Sizing by Ultrasonics* (Ref. Z6602Z).
- New Standard, *Practice for Preparation of Water Samples Using Reductive Precipitation Preconcentration Technique for ICP-MS Analysis of Trace Materials* (Ref. Z8939Z).
- New Standard, *Test Method for Linear Thermal Expansion of Electrode Carbons* (Ref. Z9218Z).

The following newly published standards are available from ASTM:

- B 243-01, *Terminology of Powder Metallurgy*, (revised standard).
- C 168-01, *Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation* (revised standard).

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- C 634-01, *Terminology Relating to Environmental Acoustics* (revised standard).
- C 1104/C 1104M-00, *Test Method for Determining the Water Vapor Sorption of Unfaced Mineral Fiber Insulation* (revised standard).
- C 1224-01, *Specification for Reflective Insulation for Building Applications* (revised standard).
- D 596-01, *Guide for Reporting Results of Analysis of Water* (revised standard).
- D 1129-01, *Terminology Relating to Water* (revised standard).
- D 4692-01 (Includes change to title*), Practice for Calculation and Adjustment of Sulfate Scaling Salts Caso* (revised standard).
- D 5462-01, *Test Method for On-Line Measurement of Low-Level Dissolved Oxygen in Water* (revised standard).
- D 6418-01, *Practice for Using the Disposable En Core Sampler for Sampling and Storing Soil for Volatile Organic Analysis* (revised standard).
- E 801-01, *Practice for Controlling Quality of Radiological Examination of Electronic Devices* (revised standard).
- E 1411-01, *Practice for Qualification of Radioscopic Systems* (revised standard).
- E 1605-01a, *Terminology Relating to Lead in Buildings* (revised standard).
- G 40-01, *Terminology Relating to Wear and Erosion* (revised standard).

Comments, Questions, and Addresses

Comments: If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rick Serbu, EH-53, Manager, DOE Technical Standards Program Office (TSPO), 301-903-2856, Fax 301-903-6172, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**.

Addresses: *Standards Actions* and *The Standards Forum* are electronic newsletters available on the TSP Web Site (**http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**). To update your mailing and e-mail addresses, please contact Amy Bush, ORNL, 865-576-2395, Fax 865-574-8481, **bushar@ornl.gov**.

Technical Standards Activities: The TSPO would like to be kept informed of the status of technical standards that are being prepared or coordinated for DOE. Please provide this information to the TSPO at 865-576-2395, **bushar@ornl.gov**.

NIST To Hold Conformity Assessment Workshop

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will hold a workshop, entitled *Conformity Assessment for a Changing Government*, on December 3, 2001, at the Administration Building 101 in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The workshop is aimed at representatives of public and private sector organizations concerned with inspection, testing, certification, laboratory accreditation, management system registration, and/or other kinds of conformity assessment. Personnel from any organization interested in the implementation of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) and conformity assessment activities of government agencies are encouraged to attend.

The workshop will focus on instructive, thought-provoking presentations and discussions on how various federal agencies are successfully following the letter and the spirit of the NTTAA. Agency representatives will describe the processes they use to scope out conformity assessment alternatives, evaluate prospective partners, and ensure a good fit with their missions, regulatory responsibilities, and procurement activities. Presenters include representatives from various organizations including the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Postal Service, the Federal Communications Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation. Registration for this full-day event is only $60.

Please note that no on-site registrations will be accepted; pre-registration is required due to increased security measures. To register for the workshop, contact Kimberly Snouffer, NIST, 301-975-2776, **kimberly.snouffer@nist.gov**. For more information, visit **http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/confpage/011203.htm**.

ASTM Takes Charge of NTAG, Keeps U.S. in ISO/TC 85

Reprinted with permission from Suriya Ahmad, Nuclear Standards News Editor, American Nuclear Society, "Nuclear Standards News" Vol. 32, No. 6, November–December 2001

At the start of October, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) began serving as Administrator of the Nuclear Technical Advisory Group (NTAG), under a three-year contract awarded by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). The goal of the ASTM administration is to reinvigorate, reorganize, and lead the U.S. position in ISO/TC 85, the international nuclear standards development organization. The contract seals the process that had already been ongoing, with a vote in favor of ASTM last December and formal transfer of responsibility this past April.

NTAG was under the administration of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for many years. Over time, the financial needs of NTAG came into conflict with the evolution of ANSI's goals and missions, so ANSI sent funding solicitation letters to standards development organizations and government agencies. If NTAG were not funded, then the U.S. would lose its active participation in international nuclear standards; this led to submission of proposals by various organizations, and ultimately to the selection of ASTM as the new NTAG administrator.

With the change in administration, and the resignation of previous NTAG Chair David R. Smith, Harry Farrar IV was appointed as the new NTAG Chair. There was a call for volunteers and nominations to fill NTAG membership. The new members are as follows:

- NTAG Chairman: Harry Farrar IV (TC 85/Working Group 3 Convener)
- NTAG First Vice-Chairman: James F. Mallay (Framatome, ANS)
- NTAG Second Vice-Chairman: George Campbell (LLNL)
- NTAG Secretary: Donald J. Spellman (ORNL, ANS)
- NTAG Administrator: Jeff Adkins (ASTM)
- Overall Advisor for Subcommittee-2: Ken Swinth (HPS)
- ANS Deputy Overall Advisor for SC2: William Hopkins (Bechtel)
- HPS Deputy Overall Advisor for SC2: George Vargo (PNL)
- Overall Advisor for SC5: Michael Westfall (ORNL, ANS)
- Deputy Overall Advisor for SC5: Calvin Hopper (ORNL, ANS)
- Overall Advisor for SC6: Seymour H. Weiss (NIST)
- Deputy Overall Advisor for SC6: Tawfik M. Raby (NIST, ANS)
- Overall Advisor for WG1: Larry Fischer (LLNL, TC85/WG1 Convener)
- Deputy Overall Advisor for WG1: Ron Knief (Sandia, ANS)
- Overall Advisor for WG3: Thelma Wilcott (Becton Dickinson)
- Deputy Overall Advisor for WG3: Barry Fairand (ASTM E10.01)
- Liaison with IAEA: Ambler Thompson (NIST)
- Deputy Liaison with IAEA: Brian K. Grimes (ANS)

Since NTAG's kickoff meeting in May, ASTM and ISO have agreed on the new designation scheme and on the format to publish upcoming standards. Fifteen dosimetry standards underwent a successful ISO Draft International Standards ballot last autumn, and they will be converted to ASTM format. Other plans to reinvigorate NTAG include development of a stronger reactor program within Subcommittee-6, to include research reactors as well as demonstration and power reactors, and revision of the NTAG Operating Procedures.

OMB A-119 Report for Fiscal Year 2001—the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Response

Public Law (PL) 104-113 [15 USC 272(b), March 7, 1996], *The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995*, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119 (OMB A-119), *Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Standards*, describe the policy of the Federal Government regarding (a) adoption and use of voluntary (i.e., non-Government) standards in lieu of developing Government (i.e., DOE) standards, and (b) participation of Government employees in the activities on non-Government standards bodies.

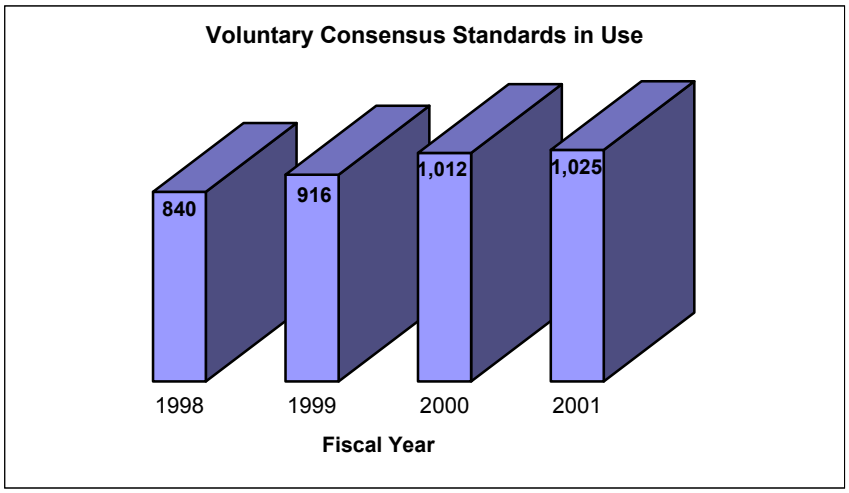

Figure A. Voluntary Consensus Standards in Use Since 1998

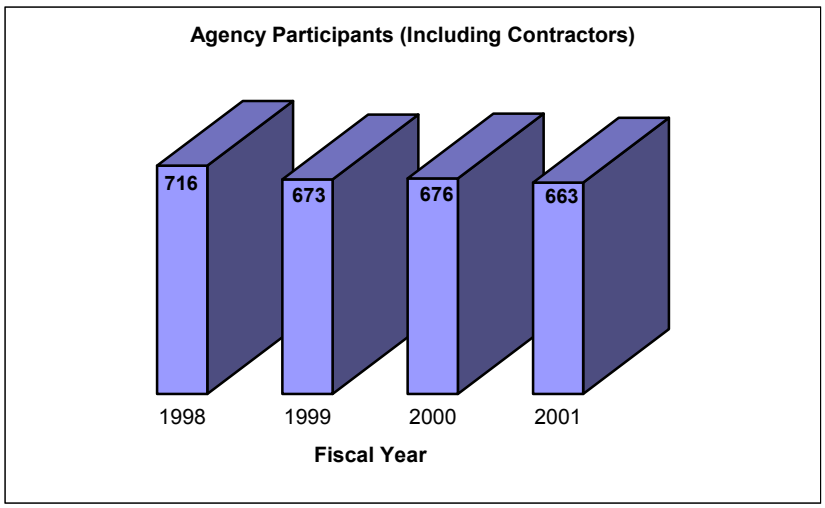

Figure B. Number of Agency Participants in NGS Bodies Since 1998

The policy outlined in PL 104-113 and OMB A-119 is reflected in DOE Order 252.1, *Technical Standards Program*. As discussed in Order 252.1, participation by Department employees and contractors in the activities on non-Government standards (NGS) bodies is encouraged. DOE participation in the standards-related activities of NGS bodies provides incentives and opportunities to establish standards that serve national needs. Adoption and use of non-Government standards, where appropriate, eliminates the costs associated with developing DOE standards.

PL 104-113 and OMB A-119 require DOE and other Federal agencies to provide periodic reports on agency participation in non-Government standards activities. Every fiscal year, the DOE Standards Executive provides the OMB with a detailed report on the status of DOE participation in NGS bodies. This report, which is compiled from information provided by participating DOE employees and contractors, is used in the information provided for publication in DOE-TSL-1, *DOE Standards Index*, and DOE-TSL-4, *Directory of DOE and Contractor Personnel Involved in non-Government Standards Activities*. The results for these categories of activity over the past four years are presented here in graphical form. The data show a steady increase in the identified use of voluntary consensus standards (Figure A) and a slight staircase pattern of agency participation in NGS activities and committees (Figures B and C).

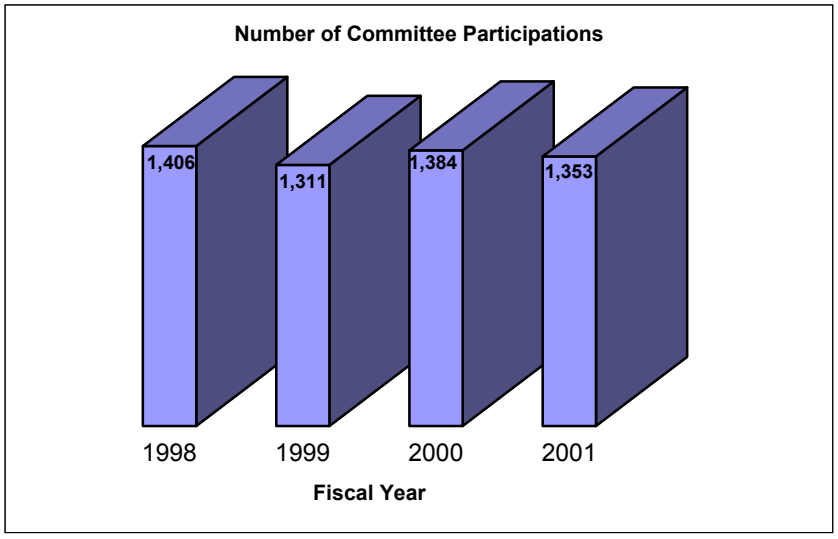

Figure C. Number of NGS Participations Since 1998

The World of Standards—

NEWS BRIEFS

OSHA Issues Metalworking Fluids Best Practices Manual

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a safety and health guide to help employers provide a safer workplace for workers exposed to metalworking fluids. The Metalworking Standards Advisory Committee published the *Metalworking Fluids: Safety and Health Best Practices Manual* to help reduce the adverse health effects of working with metalworking fluids.

Metalworking fluids include a complex mixture of oils, detergents, lubricants and other potentially toxic ingredients, and are used mainly for their coolant, lubricating and corrosion resistant properties during machining operations. Occupational exposure to these fluids can have harmful health effects and has been associated with skin problems and various respiratory diseases. Epidemiological studies indicate that exposure to metalworking fluids may cause substantially elevated risk of certain types of cancers.

The manual provides general information about metalworking fluids and includes the following recommendations:

- a systems management approach to control exposure and minimize contact with the metalworking fluid that includes engineering and work practice controls,
- establishment of a fluid management program that includes standard operating procedures for testing fluids, a data collection and tracking system, employee participation in setting up and operating the overall system, and a continuing training program, and
- institution of an exposure monitoring program.

The *Metalworking Fluids: Safety and Health Best Practices Manual* is not a new standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations. It is intended for use by employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace for workers exposed to metalworking fluids. The manual can be found on OSHA's Web site at **http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/metalworkingfluids/metalworkingfluids_manual.html**.

Consensus-Based Haz-Mat Standards Now Available Free from NFPA

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is offering free downloads of the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files of three hazardous materials standards as a result of the events on September 11, 2001, and the ongoing threats against our nation.

NFPA's Hazardous Materials Response Committee has developed a series of consensus-based standards on incidents involving chemical or biological substances; these standards provide guidance to those emergency personnel who may be the first on the scene of such incidents. The standards that are available for free are NFPA 471, *Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents*; NFPA 472, *Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*; and NFPA 473, *Professional Competence of Emergency Medical Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*. The PDF files of the standards are available at **http://www.ProcessRequest.com/apps/redir.asp?link=XbcicchaCC,ZbbiajdhgiED&o>id=UccajBD**. Supplements from NFPA's Hazardous Materials Response Handbook are also available.

2001 World Standards Day Paper Competition Winning Papers Announced

First prize in the 2001 World Standards Day Paper Competition went to Dr. Prabhat Krishnaswamy and Richard Lampo for their paper, *Recycled-Plastic Lumber Standards: From Waste Plastics to Markets for Plastic Lumber Bridges*. Their winning paper was published in the September/October issue of *Standards Engineering* and is posted on the Standard Engineering Society (SES) Web site at **http://www.ses-standards.org/library.html**. Second place was awarded to Lorraine Wright and Mary Wyderski for their submission, *Environmentally-Safe Standards Heat Up When Cold Wind Blows*. Their paper will be published in the November/December issue of *Standards Engineering*.

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ANSI Implements Tracking System to Measure Implementation of the U.S. NSS

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has created a user-friendly, Web-based tracking system to measure the success of the U.S. National Standards Strategy (NSS). The tracking system allows the Institute and its constituents to post their actions related to the implementation of the strategic goals and associated tactics set forth in the NSS. The tracking system can be accessed by going to the Institute's home page at **http://web.ansi.org/** and clicking on the 'National Standards Strategy' link at the bottom of the page.

In an ANSI news release on October 22, 2001, ANSI president and chief executive officer, Dr. Mark Hurwitz, CAE, explained, "ANSI has been recording the actions that the Institute has taken to implement the goals of the U.S. National Standards Strategy since the document was created last year. The new tracking system will give members and constituents of the ANSI Federation the opportunity to input the measures that they have taken thus far toward realizing the strategy's objectives."

For security purposes, the tracking system is password protected. ANSI members, U.S. standards developers, and other interested parties may obtain a user ID and password by contacting either Lisa Rajchel, ANSI director of International Secretariats and Standards Facilitation and project manager for development of the tracking system, or her colleague, Sara Hafele, program manager of Standards Facilitation.

For questions concerning the NSS tracking system or to obtain a user ID and password, contact Lisa Rajchel at 212-642-4932 or Sara Hafele at 212-642-4937.

ANS-19 Seeks Working Group Volunteers

American Nuclear Society (ANS) Subcommittee 19 (ANS-19), Physics of Reactor Design, is seeking working group volunteers to participate in the identification of needed standards relating to physics calculations for reactor core design, to formulate such standards, and to specify their range of applicability. These standards would provide criteria for the selection of nuclear data and computational methods, appropriate benchmark problem specifications for verification of calculational methods used by reactor core designers, criteria for evaluation of accuracy and the range of applicability of data methods, definitions of reactor physics terms and parameters, and guidelines for presentation and documentation of design computational results and criteria for reporting of the method of verification and of estimating uncertainties.

ANS-19 requires interested individuals who have a strong background and interest in this field. To request a volunteer form, you may download it from the ANS Web site **at http://www.ans.org/standards/involved/pdfs/volunteerform.pdf**. Alternatively, you may contact Suriya Ahmad, Standards Administrator, American Nuclear Society, 555 North Kensington Avenue, LaGrange Park, Illinois 60525, 708-579-8269, Fax: 708-352-6464, **sahmad@ans.org**.

ASTM Seeks Input for Heat Stress and Cooling Garment Standards Development

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Committee F23 on Protective Clothing is seeking new members and input for development of new standards that will evaluate the human effects of protective clothing worn in hot environments. Human Factors Subcommittee F23.60 will focus on human factors that occur when protective clothing is worn to prevent heat stress in hot working conditions and warm or humid climates.

Subcommittee F23.60 has successfully established test methods and practices to evaluate protective clothing materials and garments for their insulative effects in both bench-scale and manikin-based tests. It invites participation in its current development of methodology related to the incidence of heat stress, with:

- A proposed *Standard Guide for Conducting Evaluations of the Heat Stress Effects for Protective Clothing*; and
- A proposed *Standard Practice for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Personal Body Cooling Garments (or Devices)*.

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If you are interested in participating in these activities, contact Elizabeth A. McCullough, professor, Institute for Environmental Research, Kansas State University (785-532-2284). Committee F23 meets January 23–24, 2002, in Dallas, Texas. For meeting or membership details, contact Steve Mawn, manager, ASTM Technical Committee Operations, 610-832-9726.

NIST and ITA Launch New Online Service – *Export Alert!*

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the International Trade Administration (ITA) have launched *Export Alert!*, a free Internet-based service that automatically notifies interested businesses when foreign governments propose regulations that might influence the treatment of U.S. exports. The intent of this new tool is to provide key information to help keep American exports competitive in the global marketplace.

Under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, World Trade Organization (WTO) members are required to report proposed central government regulations that may have an impact on trade. The *Export Alert!* tool will be used to gather, organize and disseminate notifications of proposed regulatory changes issued by any of the WTO members. These notifications are submitted to the WTO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. In turn, notifications are made available to designated inquiry points in member nations. The U.S. inquiry point is NIST's National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI), which manages the new service.

Export Alert! automatically sends WTO-distributed notifications to subscribing organizations and individuals via electronic mail. Notifications are categorized by fields of activity that range from health-care technology to agriculture to construction materials. Subscribers can specify the fields of activity that they wish to track and can monitor developments in selected countries or regions.

Interested in subscribing to the *Export Alert!* service? You can sign up online at **http://ts.nist.gov/ncsci**. For additional information, contact NCSCI at 301-975-4040 or **ncsci@nist.gov**.

NFPA Publishes Fire and Life Safety Handbook for Facility/Safety Managers

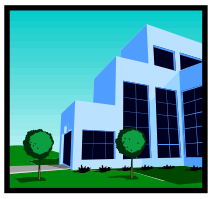
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recently published a new handbook, *Introduction to Employee Fire & Life Safety*, designed to provide facility managers and health/safety officers with hands-on fire and life safety information for the workplace.

Prepared by leading experts from related fields, the comprehensive safety manual is the first resource to consolidate information for managers in fire protection, fire service, industrial safety, and human resources in order to maximize workplace safety. The handbook offers a special timely chapter on emergency evacuation drills in the workplace, which is primarily based on requirements from NFPA's *Life Safety Code*®.

Each chapter starts with an actual incident report to set the stage for the information that follows. The book covers hazardous materials and hot work, fire extinguisher use, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, and case studies for successful fire and life safety education programs.

The manual is available for purchase from NFPA at 1-800-344-3555 or online at **http://www.nfpa.org**. Cost is $68.50 for NFPA members and $76 for non-members. You can also view the handbook in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) at NFPA's Web site.

NFPA *Building Code*™ to Reflect FEMA's Position on Seismic Loads



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced its support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) recommendation regarding the adoption of seismic provisions, by reference, that are contained in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) standard, ASCE-7, *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*. NFPA 5000, *Building Code*—the first building code developed through an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited consensus process—will directly reference the seismic provisions contained in the latest edition of the ASCE standard, ASCE 7-02,

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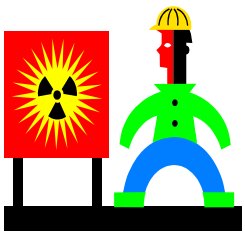
another document created through an ANSI-accredited process. In addition to seismic loads, ASCE 7 addresses building design loads including snow, wind, and flood among others.

NFPA released the Report on Proposals for NFPA 5000 for public comment in August. The comment period is now closed, but you can view a draft of NFPA 5000 at **http://www.nfpa.org/BuildingCode/Draft/nfpa_5000_draft.asp**. All 16 NFPA Building Code Technical Committees will review the comments received and act on those comments this fall. The Building Code Technical Correlating Committee will finalize a Report on Comments that will be published for public review in April of 2002. All interested parties may provide input on the NFPA *Building Code* throughout its development process, which will continue through May of 2002, when the document will be up for vote by the NFPA membership.



EPA Proposes "Standardized Permit" for RCRA Waste

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing revisions to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permitting program to allow a "standardized permit" that would be available to facilities that generate hazardous waste and then manage the waste in units such as tanks, containers, and containment buildings. The EPA Permits Improvement Team was established to evaluate permitting activities and to make specific recommendations to improve these activities. The proposed revision to the RCRA hazardous waste permitting program reflects one of the Team's recommendations. The standardized permit should streamline the permit process by allowing facilities to obtain and modify permits more easily while maintaining the protectiveness currently existing in the individual RCRA permit process. The proposal was published in the October 12, 2001, *Federal Register*, which also includes detailed instructions on how to submit comments. Comments on this proposal must be submitted by December 11, 2001.

For more information on the EPA's standardized permit proposal, go to their Web site at **http://www.epa.gov/OSWRCRA/hazwaste/permit/std-perm.htm**.

EFCOG Calls for ISM "Best Practices"

The Integrated Safety Management Working Group (ISMWG) of the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) has issued a call for ISM "Best Practices," which they define as practices with redeeming qualities and attributes that have been proven through implementation and would be beneficial for others to use. ISMWG plans to share the "Best Practices" across the DOE complex.

ISMWG recognizes two types of "Best Practices":

- a proven and practiced system, process, or programmatic aspect of an ISMS that has been recognized by managers as a positive attribute, would be applicable complex-wide, and is traceable to one or more ISM core functions or guiding principles
- a proven and practiced method or technique that has been recognized by managers to positively advance the awareness of ISM, would be applicable complex-wide, and is traceable to one or more ISM core functions or guiding principles.

To learn more about how to submit a "Best Practice" for consideration, how they are selected, and the selection criteria used, go to the EFCOG Web site at **http://www.efcog.org/wg/ismwg/ism/pisg/BPbrochure1.html**.

2001 SES Conference Proceedings Available Online

The conference proceedings from the 2001 Standards Engineering Society (SES) conference, *2001: A Standards Odyssey—A Journey Into the Future*, are now available on the SES Web site. The conference was held August 13–14, 2001, in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Jay Jordan, President and CEO of Online Computer Library Center, Inc., presented the keynote address, "Standards in a Web World." Speakers from throughout the standards industry made presentations during seven sessions that included: Back to the Future of Standards, The Future of the Standards Professional, Standards.com, Meeting User Needs—An SDO Challenge, Standards @ the Speed of Business, Standards Sidebar, and Technology Update. You can view the proceedings at **http://www.ses-standards.org/library.html**.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences of Interest

January 14–16, 2002

AHR Expo and the *ASHRAE Winter Meeting*

Atlantic City Convention Center – Atlantic City, New Jersey

For more information, contact **giometti@ashrae.org**, or visit **http://www.ashrae.org/MEET/meetmenu.htm**.

January 15–18, 2002

RCRA National Meeting – Partnerships for Cleaner Communities

Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill – Washington, D.C.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact **cummings.anita@epa.gov** or visit **http://www.rcranationalmeeting.org/index.htm**.

January 28–29, 2002

Delivering Organizational Value—The American Society for Quality's 2nd Six Sigma Conference

Hyatt Regency Tampa at Tampa Center – Tampa, Florida

Organizations presenting at the conference include Boeing, Ceridian, John Deere, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

For more information, visit **http://sixsigma.asq.org**.

February 24–28, 2002

Waste Management Symposium 2002

Tucson Convention Center – Tucson, Arizona

Hosted by the University of Arizona. Sponsoring organizations include the American Nuclear Society, New Mexico State University Waste Management Education and Research Consortium, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and NEA/OECD.

For more information, visit **http://www.wmsym.org/wm02/**.

February 25–March 1, 2002

14th Annual Quality Management Conference—The Changing Face of Quality

Hyatt Regency New Orleans – New Orleans, Lousianna

Sponsored by the America Society for Quality, Quality Management Division.

For more information, visit **http://www.asq-qmd.org/conference_1.html**.

March 4–6, 2002

International Symposium and Exhibition on Advanced Packaging Materials: Processes, Properties, and Interfaces

Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort – Stone Mountain, Georgia

Sponsored by IEEE Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology and Packaging Research Center at Georgia Tech.

For more information, visit **http://www.prc.gatech.edu/conferences/materials2002/overview.htm**.

March 10–14, 2002

AIChE Spring 2002 National Meeting

Hilton New Orleans Riverside – New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information, contact the AIChE Meetings Department, **meetmail@aiche.org** or 212-591-8894. Visit **http://www.aiche.org/conferences/spring/** for more information.

March 10–14, 2002

Applied Power Electronics Conference and Exposition (APEC) 2002

Adam's Mark Hotel – Dallas, Texas

Cosponsors include IEEE Power Electronics Society, the IEEE Industry Applications Society, and the Power Sources Manufacturers Association.

For more information, visit **http://www.apec-conf.org/**.

March 12–15, 2002

American Society for Quality's 9th Annual ISO 9000 Conference/ISO 14000 Conference—Standards for Business Results

Indianapolis Marriott Hotel – Indianapolis, Indiana

For more information, visit **http://www.asq.org/ed/conferences/iso9000_iso14000/index.html**.

April 8–9, 2002

World-Class Accreditation Today and Tomorrow

Sponsored by the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) in conjunction with the NACLA Annual Meeting.

Hyatt Regency Hotel – Arlington, Virginia

For more information, visit **http://www.nacla.net/News/World_Class/Forum/world_class_forum.shtml**.